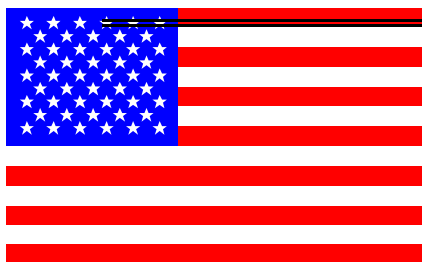


NEWS AND VIEWS

of Chemical Preparedness

EPA Region 8

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Welcome to the new News & Views. I invite your input as far as news from your agencies that may be of interest to others. Address your news to Jim Knoy at the above address or fax to 303-312-6071 or e-mail knoy.jim@epa.gov.

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CHARLES HEISTER

Chuck has left his job as a grantee to EPA that he has held since March of 1999. For the past five years, Chuck has been a spark plug of energy. To see him lead the Regional Response Team in a table top exercise is a sight to behold. He is leaving to take on a position as Safety and Training Director for a private company. We wish him well and will miss him.

MIPT

In case you have not heard about the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT), you should. This non-profit group was created by and is funded by congress to do a number of tasks associated with bettering this country to prepare for, prevent and respond to acts of terrorism. MIPT was created after the Oklahoma City bombing. You should look at their web site at www.mipt.org for information on all of their programs.

What I want to focus on today is their Lessons Learned Information Sharing system. Go to www.llis.gov to log onto and learn more about this system. The Department of Homeland Security has adopted this system and has made it the official system for first responders and others to share good response /planning related information. It will be well worth your time to look into this web page.

COMMAND POST

EPA Region 8 has a new mobile command post for emergency response.



The command post was used in a recent exercise in Colorado Springs/El Paso County, Colorado. This unit will enhance the ability of EPA to maintain field operations. It contains satellite communications that can keep the field teams in contact with EPA's Regional Response Center in Denver.

MARY AHLSTROM RETIRES

Mary Ahlstrom who was at EPA via an Inter-Agency Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) retired the end of May. Mary worked in the Brownfields (BF) program for the last 5 years. Her work with Region VIII's Tribal governments has received accolades from both other regional program offices and from HQ (1st time winner of the Superfund Notables "BF Team Award" for outreach to Tribal governments). Many people know Mary from the outstanding work she did while at FEMA and BOR. Many tribal representatives and first responders and local planners benefitted from Mary's work. Mary leaves us a shining legacy of dedication and enthusiasm, and embodies the true spirit of public service.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HAZ MAT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The 24th annual Rocky Mountain Haz Mat Association Training and Education Conference was held in Cheyenne, WY the week of April 26.



Haz Mat team members from Wyoming and Colorado were trained in street chemistry, Haz Mat EMS, Decon, Instrumentation, Meth labs and more. More information is available at www.rmhma.com.

FRONT RANGE REGIONAL HAZ MAT GROUP

The Front Range Regional Haz Mat Group is an informal association of responders from all levels of government that meet regularly and communicate via email all sorts of good information. They share equipment lists, training/exercise schedules and more. If you are interested in more information, please contact John Marshall, EPA, at 303-312-7026, or marshall.john@epa.gov.

CAMEO UPDATES!!

CAMEO (Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations) is a suite of computer programs that provide emergency planners and responders with tools to predict and respond to releases of hazardous substances in their community. CAMEO fm is the current version of CAMEO and it uses File Maker as the operating software. This version of CAMEO is updated often, most recently during the week of May 12, 2004.

With the increased interest in responding to releases of hazardous substances (both accidental and intentional), there is more interest in the CAMEO suite of programs (CAMEO, ALOHA and MARPLOT). In particular, the reactivity database, which predicts possible products resulting from mixtures of various chemicals, is getting more attention from both planners and responders.

Region VIII will continue to provide training in the CAMEO suite of programs for free! We can tailor the class to meet your needs. Basic CAMEO takes approximately 1.5 days to complete. Class participants will also learn how to download a MARPLOT map of their county and take it home with them. If participants bring Tier2 information with them in the Tier2 Submit format, it can be uploaded into CAMEO as part of a class.

If you would like additional information, please contact Mr. Bradley Miller, Region VIII's CAMEO Program Coordinator at 303-312-6483.

PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM STATE LIAISONS

Two of the Senior Environmental Employees (SEE's) working in the Preparedness, Assessment and Emergency Response (PAER) program, Bob Roy and Glenn Ford, have been with EPA collectively for twenty-nine years. Bob has nineteen years with EPA and Glenn is in his tenth year. Bob and Glenn are State Liaisons or "contact points" for PAER's Preparedness program. In this role, they carry the message of what the program has to offer to the people of Region 8. Bob works primarily in Colorado, North Dakota and Montana, while Glenn covers South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. In a spirit of cooperation, they back each other up whenever and wherever they are needed due to schedule conflicts.

Both Bob and Glenn served in the Armed Forces in their youth. Bob in the Marines in Korea and Glenn with the 101st Airborne Division in Kentucky.

After their military service, they both attended college, and then went into careers as teachers and administrators. Bob worked in Denver, Colorado area schools, while Glenn moved across the country from New York to Nebraska and Aurora, Colorado. Both retired from their respective school districts and signed on to the unique Senior Environmental Employee program for retirees sponsored by the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) funded with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The program was later taken over by the National Older Workers Career Center (NOWCC) and continues to be supported and funded by the EPA.

Bob and Glenn are available to meet with your local groups to talk about EPA's Prevention, Assessment and Emergency Response program on a request basis. Bob can be contacted at 303-312-6802 or by E-mail at roy.robert@epa.gov. You can reach Glenn at 303-312-7042 or by E-mail at ford.glenn@epa.gov.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REIMBURSEMENT

Do you know that EPA has a program where local governments may be eligible for reimbursement to certain haz mat incidents up to \$ 25,000? Please go to <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/er/lgr> for detailed information and the forms necessary to apply. You will also find the eligibility requirements there.

USING CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL AGENTS ON OIL SPILLS

Do you know that EPA regulates the use of chemical and biological countermeasures on oil spills as well as the use of fire as a clean up method? The definition of oil includes most all petroleum products as well as food oil products.

Please go to <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/ncp/index.htm> to see the legal citations for this program and more detailed information on products that might be used. Sometimes responders use surface washing agents, or dispersants to help break up oil and aid in the clean up. Sometimes, especially for larger oil pipeline leaks, burning of the spilled product is done. All these actions require the approval from the EPA On Scene Coordinator and the Regional Response Team.

EPA Region VIII, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado, will never approve the use of dispersants, but may, on a case by case basis, approve the use of surface washing agents. Biological treatment of oil in this region is problematic as such efforts, to be successful, require tremendous resource commitments. Unless the spill is large and sufficient resources are committed to the effort, biological treatment will not be approved.

EPA Region 8 has issued a blanket approval to fire departments to use surface washing agents for transportation incidents where such agents would assist in safely opening up a highway, for instance. All agents and

materials must be collected and disposed of properly as part of the response and no materials are allowed to enter a storm drain, wetland, stream or other body of water.

If you have an emergency and want to use these agents, your first step is to contact an EPA On Scene Coordinator by calling the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. If you have any questions, you may call Jim Knoy at 303-312-6838 or email at knoy.jim@epa.gov.

IDENTIFYING CHEMICAL REACTIVITY HAZARDS: PRELIMINARY SCREENING METHOD

Lack of awareness of the reactive chemical hazards in a facility results in a higher risk of hazardous uncontrolled chemical reactions. The first step in managing chemicals reactivity hazards is identifying those facility operations and chemicals that represent a potential chemical reactivity hazard. Chemical reactivity hazards can be controlled by incorporating techniques into the facility's hazard management system.

EPA publishes Alerts to increase awareness of possible hazards. EPA is striving to learn the causes and contributing factors associated with chemical accidents and to prevent their recurrence. Major chemical accidents cannot be prevented solely through regulatory requirements. Rather, understanding the fundamental root causes, widely disseminating the lessons learned, and integrating these lessons learned into safe operations are also required.

This alert is available on the EPA website at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/ap-chsa.htm>

EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TEAM INFORMATION

EPA's ERT has a web site, www.ert.org, that has a lot of good information on it for responders. There are health and safety fact sheets, sampling SOPs and other guidance. You can also subscribe there for the Environmental Response News Magazine which provides current information on responses. CHECK IT OUT!!!!